

The Society for the Study of French History

**24th Annual General Meeting**

**University of York, Tuesday 3rd July, 2012**

## Minutes

1. Apologies for absence were received from Joe Bergin, Chris Warne, Noelle Plack, John Strachan, Isabel DiVanna, Maire Cross, Pam Pilbeam, Bill Doyle, Joseph Clarke, Mark Greengrass, Kevin Gould, Linda Briggs, and David Hopkin.
2. Minutes of 2011 AGM were approved. There were no matters arising.
3. Report from the Secretary
4. The Ralph Gibson Bursary for 2012 had been awarded to Louise Seaward (Leeds); the runner-up was Kate Hammond (St Andrews)
5. Thirteen postgraduate research grants, and seven conference grants and bursaries, had been awarded
6. Report from the Treasurer (presented by the Secretary)

The Society’s income for 2012 to date was £22,237.83, with expenditure for the year projected to reach around £23,000. The Treasurer noted that the Society was spending a little below the rate necessary to reach the goal agreed at the 2009 AGM of reducing capital reserves to around £50,000, but it was noted that the £21,520.00 profit share from the journal was perhaps unusually high in 2012. This was to be checked with OUP. The AGM reaffirmed the target of reducing capital reserves to around £50,000: this should be achieved by a reduction of c. £5,000 per annum.

1. Membership Secretary’s Report (presented by the Secretary)

Membership had increased from 113 to 136. Around a third of members were based outside the UK and Ireland. The idea of insisting that all conference delegates be members of the Society was raised. It was proposed that, rather than insisting on membership for all delegates, the Society might charge a premium conference fee for non-members. Julian Wright suggested that it would be helpful if OUP could manage subscriptions on a June-to-June rather than calendar year basis, so that up-to-date information on membership and income would be available for the AGM.

1. Report from the Editors of *French History* & Society News

Julian Wright, on behalf of the editors, expressed thanks to Jessica Wardhaugh and Tim Baycroft for their management of the News and Reviews sections. It was noted that book reviews were now working well and that copy flow in general was increasing. A special issue on animals in French History was planned, and the editors invited suggestions for more special issues. It was noted that the OUP publisher’s report had revealed excellent feedback on the journal from OUP’s survey of authors. The meeting expressed thanks to Julian Wright and Penny Roberts for their work on the journal.

1. Sixth Form podcasts ‘Visions and Revisions in French History’

David Andress reported on the production of the first podcast, on the French Revolution. This consisted of a talk and question-and-answer session led by Prof. Andress, accompanied by a revision essay based on research into what A-level students would find most useful. The podcast will be posted on the Society website and advertised widely. Suggestions for other podcasts were invited. The meeting expressed thanks to Prof. Andress.

1. Appointment of new Secretary, changes to Trustees and Committee membership.

Sandy Wilkinson’s appointment as Secretary was proposed by Stephen Tyre, and seconded by David Andress. The meeting thanked the outgoing Secretary. Daniel Power was appointed as a Trustee. Andrew Smith would continue to serve as a Committee member after completing his PhD, sharing responsibility for the website with Kevin Gould. David Hopkin had completed his term as chair of the undergraduate dissertation prize committee, and Kevin Gould and Michael Jones had completed their terms as judges. Stephen Tyre was appointed chair of the committee, with Claire Eldridge and Robin Briggs as judges.

1. AOB

It was noted that the venue for the 2013 conference remained to be decided, as Queen Mary were no longer able to host the conference. Karine Varley was in discussions with Cardiff University. Stuart Carroll pointed out the high cost of hosting the conference given the difficulties in securing funding. The meeting expressed its warm thanks to the 2012 conference organisers.